

*¡No a la TB en Nuestras Fronteras: Ahora Es el Momento!* **No TB on Our Borders: Now Is the Time!**



## **The United States-Mexico Binational TB Referral and Case Management Project**

### **FACT SHEET**

- Approximately 264 million persons cross the United States-Mexico border northbound annually.
- The sister-city regions of San Diego-Tijuana and El Paso-Ciudad Juarez account for 40% of daily border northbound crossings.
- Many people who migrate between the United States and Mexico lack access to health care.
- If patients stop or interrupt treatment for active TB disease, they may develop strains of TB that are drug resistant.
- The United States and Mexico national TB control programs limit their effectiveness when managing TB in this migratory population if they do not combine resources and work together.
- A regional strategy to combat active TB disease along our common borders is necessary.
- In 2002, 25% of all foreign-born tuberculosis (TB) patients in the United States were from Mexico.
- Since 2000, representatives of the United States, Mexico, and other key stakeholders have undertaken an extensive consensus planning effort to develop a binational information system of TB case management.
- The goals of the project are to coordinate the referral of patients between the health systems of both countries and to ensure continuity of care and completion of TB treatment for patients who migrate between the United States and Mexico.

- This effort will improve our understanding of migrating TB patients, ensure that patients receive continuous care, and allow the completion of six-month treatment regimens necessary to cure TB. As a result, multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB can be prevented.
- The project will be piloted in the sister-city regions of San Diego, California, and Tijuana, Baja California; El Paso, Texas, Las Cruces, New Mexico and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua; and Matamoros, Tamaulipas. In Mexico, the pilot project will also include one district in each of seven other states (Sonora, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Michoacan, Jalisco, Veracruz, and Oaxaca). These states are the place of origin for numerous Mexicans migrating to the United States.
- The project will make use of the Binational Health Card given to all TB patients who may move across the United States-Mexico border during the course of their care. The card does not specifically mention the word “tuberculosis” as agreed upon in the extensive consensus binational planning effort.
- The card will include toll-free numbers in the United States and Mexico, a unique card number, the site where the patient first received TB care, treatment start date, treatment regimen, and whether the patient received directly observed therapy.
- Careful attention has been paid to safeguarding patient confidentiality and the legality of international information exchange.
- The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), the U.S.–Mexico Border Health Commission, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the Coldwell Foundation fund the project.
- If the evaluation of the pilot project demonstrates success, the United States-Mexico Binational TB Referral and Case Management Project will likely be expanded to other parts of the United States and Mexico.
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